GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4073
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2005
VISIT OF PRINCE OF SAUDI ARABIA
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prince Al Waleed bin Talal Al Saud of Saudi Arabia visited India recently to evaluate investment opportunities in the Indian hotel industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether he met the top leaders of Indian Government during his visit;

(d) if so, the details of the discussions held and outcome thereof;

(e) whether the Prince has shown keen interest in investment and increase in bilateral relations in regard to tourism; and

(f) if so, the details of agreements, if any signed during the occasion and the future strategy chalked out in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI E. AHAMED)

a&b) Yes, Prince Al Waleed Bin Talal Al Saud of Saudi Arabia visited India on March 14 - 15, 2005 to evaluate the climate for foreign investment in India, including in the hotel industry;

c) During his visit, Prince Al Waleed held discussions with Rashtrapatiji, Prime Minister, Finance Minister and Minister of State for External Affairs.

d) The discussions focused on the state of the Indian economy and the opportunities for foreign investment in India, including in the hotel industry.

e) The Prince showed interest in investment in the hotel and hospitality industry in India.

f) No agreement was signed during the visit. Prince Al Waleed proposes to send a team of experts to India to conduct a detailed study and evaluation of investment possibilities.

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